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Moon Handbook Aruba now on sale at bookstores across the U.S.

TMN staffers are all smiles over their early Xmas gift!



TMN staff are all smiles over their early Christmas presents

ORANJESTAD -- Yesterday the office staff of THE MORNING NEWS were rewarded with a delightful surprise. They each received a personally inscribed copy of Moon Handbook Aruba, by the writer and photographer of the book, TMN reporter Rosalie Klein.

Moon Handbooks (www.moon.com) "The cure for the common trip" have been published by Avalon Travel, a member of the Perseus Book Group, for over three decades. Described as being for the "adventurous and budget-minded" the books focus on "out of the way" eateries and accommodations and rely on the insider's knowledge of their authors. Their goal is to cover the pantheon of amenities available at a given destination, particularly the sort of independent operations that are rarely advertised heavily, but offer unique experiences.

Ms. Klein was contracted to write Moon Handbook for Aruba in February of 2012,



Author Rosalie Klein and book

and after a year of editing and layout, the book is finally on bookshelves across the U.S., as well as every well-known Internet bookseller.

Copies arrived on Aruba yesterday, and the first to receive them was Rosalie's colleagues at The Morning News, an early Christmas gift to each from the author.

"Writing the book has been an incredible learning experience for me," com-

mented Ms. Klein, "from many points of view. I discovered some wonderful little restaurants, a number of which have become my favorites, and adorable, out-of-the-way accommodations. Since the finalized manuscript was handed in, there has been changes, which we tried to keep up with. Even since it was sent off to the printers, there has been an election. I do think that readers will find a more in-depth insight into island culture and history than most guides to date, as well as some great places to dine that are not listed in other books."

Aside from writing the book, as photographer for THE MORNING NEWS, and an ardent art photojournalist, Ms. Klein was able to provide all the pictures for the book, including the iconic cover photo. The book is 250 pages long, mostly in black and white, with a 32-page front section of color plates.

Moon Handbook Aruba is sold on Amazon.com and will be available at select bookstores on Aruba. Those interested in purchasing an inscribed copy can contact the author at rosalie@witty.com.

Pope Francis is Time person of the year



NEW YORK (AFP) - Time magazine named Pope Francis its person of the year on Wednesday, hailing the head of the Catholic Church as a new voice of global conscience since taking office in March.

The 76-year-old, who rose from modest beginnings and has been praised for his down-to-earth approach, is the first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years, the first Latin American head of the Church and a leading voice for the dispossessed.

He has taken on leadership of a 1.2-billion-strong Church beset by scandal and signs of deep internal dysfunction, but there are signs his popularity is revitalizing it.

Time's runner-up was NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, who has been granted asylum in Russia and with whom Time published an exclusive interview Wednesday conducted over email.

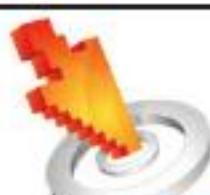
"For pulling the papacy out of the palace and into the

streets, for committing the world's largest church to confronting its deepest needs and for balancing judgment with mercy, Pope Francis is TIME's 2013 Person of the Year," said managing editor Nancy Gibbs.

She said it was rare for a new figure on the world stage to capture so much attention so quickly -- from the "young and old, faithful and cynical."

"He has placed himself at the very center of the central conversations of our time: about wealth and poverty, fairness and justice, transparency, modernity, globalization, the role of women, the nature of marriage, the temptations of power," said Gibbs.

"It is a positive sign that one of the most prestigious acknowledgments in international media should be given to someone who preaches spiritual, religious and moral values in the world and speaks effectively in favour of peace and more justice," Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said.



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Holiday cheer welcomes island visitors with the lighting of the airport rotunda



Peter Steinmetz, Anna Louisa Johnson and Jurgen Benschop



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Airport rotunda alight

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba is alight with seasonal spirit as the Bo Bario community project and various groups and businesses dress up the island's many traffic circles. On Monday evening, December 9, the new rotunda at the Reina Beatrix International Airport received its holiday treatment.

rate as some others, but the simple and stylish holiday decor does not intrude on the impressive design of the traf-

fic circle, complimenting it quite nicely.

By Rosalie Klein



Funari personnel and airport execs

Airport executives welcomed employees and a delegation of workers and clients of the Funari Foundation, which provides social interaction, classes and productive activities for the wheelchair bound. Personally welcoming their special guests was Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz and Director of Operations Jurgen Benschop.

They invited Funari Coordinator Anna Louisa Johnson to join them in flipping the switch on a sleek, contemporary display of lights which will brighten the international collection of flags that adorn the rotunda.

The festive evening was punctuated by Aruba's traditional Christmas entertainment for such events, Gaita Group Talentoso. Gaita is a musical form originating from the Zulia Province of Venezuela, usually performed by a team of female vocalists. Though many of the group's members were quite young, they performed like veterans.

One of Aruba's largest rotundas, the airport roundabout welcomes visitors on arrival and bids them safe journey on departure. This year's efforts may not be as elaborate as previous years, but the result is a

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Prime Minister of British Virgin Islands to visit Aruba



Dr. Orlando Smith

ORANJESTAD -- Last week the European Parliament met during two days for discussions on LGO's changes and developments for the future. The main focus of the meeting was "Countries and Ultra-marine Territories of the European Union: values and global vision and regional hub development." Present at the meetings were representatives of the four most active LGO in Brussels. The Prime Minister of Aruba, Greenland, New Caledonia and the British Virgin Islands, each gave a presentation on the important theme that concerns their country. In the case of Greenland, their focus

was on climate change due to which the ice is melting.

Dr. Orlando Smith, Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands made a presentation on bio-diversity which is very important to the islands because of certain natural threats, and what may be the instruments that the European Union can provide to help balance this. Minister of New Caledonia also made a presentation on bio-diversity. Following the meeting Dr. Smith approached Minister Eman for an interchange of ideas. Smith was impressed with what Aruba is doing and wanted to visit Aruba to see with his own eyes the changes and investments in our infrastructure.

Smith is of the opinion that the British Islands can learn from Aruba. Along with his interest in Aruba's infrastructure, he is also interested in TNO Caribe and would like to sustain talks with them to explore what they could mean for the British Virgin Islands.

The Aruba government has extended an invitation to Dr. Smith to visit Aruba, which invitation he gladly accepted.

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Upgrading of windmills to continue



ORANJESTAD -- Minister Otmar Oduber together with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has initiated different projects during 2013. These projects are in essence to benefit our farming sector. The installation and upgrading of windmills at the Pavia reservoir is one of the important projects undertaken.

The installation and upgrading of windmills at the different reservoirs is very important for our agriculture and livestock farmers who depend on this water to maintain their plantation and animals.

For the year 2014, the meteorologists of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology has published different studies which indicate that the South and Central re-

gion of America will be particularly vulnerable to the danger of drought, especially because of the topographic and geographic aspects of these countries.

In view of the expected situation, the Minister is intent on continuing to focus on different projects to subsidize the local farmers with sweet water for their crops and animals. Projects such as the RWZI, the cleaning and maintaining of our dams and the remodeling and installation of windmills around the island.

For the year 2014 Santa Rosa has plans to complete the upgrading and installation of windmills in

Babijn, Calabas, Sero Preto and Cadushi Largo. These were chosen strategically to ensure that our farmers in all districts can get to the cisterns easily.

In 2014 they can expect many changes legislatively for the Farming Sector. The government will install different commissions of stakeholders, among them, Santa Rosa, to work on implementing new laws to support the development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries on Aruba.

The Minister is proud to see that the vision is slowly taking effect and that the effort of everyone is helping Santa Rosa to move ahead and develop positively.

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Dengue Outbreak Team presents Mosquito "Free" Hotel program



ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Public Health has recently made a presentation to personnel of our high and low rise hotels with respect to a Mosquito Free program. Attendance to the presentation was excellent. These were persons working in the maintenance, gardens and housekeeping departments.

The goal of the program is to reduce the number of mosquito infestations to zero in the hotel zone. They are intent on eradicating especially the Aedes Aegypti mosquito strain which is the strain that transmits the dengue, which is a danger not only to our visitors but to the entire community in general.

GKMB will be providing instruction to personnel of our hotels on how to locate, treat and control the mosquito's breeding grounds. They will explain the vigilance system which must be kept in a log book, do regular checks at least twice monthly and report updates to the GKMB.

GKMB controls every

hotel and commercial apartments 4 times per year. In the Mosquito Free Hotel program GKMB will provide technical support wherever necessary and also provide training to equip employees of mentioned departments to be able to solve potential problems.

Every effort is being made to eradicate the problem of mosquito. Together with the tourism industry GKMB is continuing to look for and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. If one must use an insecticide be sure it is 'green' to avoid damage to the environment. All hotels and commercial apartments are responsible to resolve the mosquito problem if found on their property. If in 2014 the hotel/commercial apartments succeeds in controlling the problem, they will receive a certificate of the Mosquito Free Hotel program, which is valid for one year.

For more information, contact GKMB at telephone 525-3325 or the Department of Public Health at 522-4200.

Aruba's Concierges enjoy special tour at Arikok National Park Red Sail Sports Concierge staff warmly welcomed and pampered

SAN FUEGO -- On Tuesday morning December 10 the Arikok National Park management team hosted staff members of Red Sail Sports Concierge Desks to exclusively educate and inform them of the uniqueness of Aruba's natural park, covering 20% of the island. A delicious outdoor breakfast served at Hofi Shon Shoco was followed by a special tour of the park. Hosts of the VIP tour were Arikok Park's director Diego Marquez and research & education expert Indra Zaandam, together with a park ranger driving one of the park's own Land Rovers.

The tour included a visit to Moro (Little Aruba) and the Natural Pool, stops at magnificent viewpoints such as Arikok Hilltop and main attractions like the caves inside the national park. Meanwhile Aruba's concierges were educated on the ancient history of Aruba's lava rock formation, dating back to some 95 million years ago. Park director Diego Marquez also explained the park's geological and ecological importance and its diversity of flora and fauna inside the park. The Red Sail Sports Concierge staff was even invited to taste the fruits of one of many cactus species inside the park.

Park management also elaborated on new developments and future plans such as further development of the Miralamar Gold Mine Ruins inside the park, placement of new information signs at main attractions and the launch of a new (road) map for the park, including a brochure with more information on sites to visit. Indra Zaandam focused on the importance of awareness for the park and explained about the many initiatives the park organizes, such as the open-air



Monthly Movie Night, the Junior Rangers Camp and the Bat Program.

She also mentioned that volunteers are always welcome to join and participate in special projects.

Arikok National Park is a foundation, dedicated to nature conservation and education, as well as the preservation of Aruba's cultural heritage. Aruba's National Park covers 20% of the island and is home to diverse local flora and fauna. Its mission is to protect and conserve the natural and cultural surroundings of the National

Park. In paying a conservation fee every visitor contributes to the conservation and protection of the natural beauty in Aruba. More information is available at www.arubanationalpark.org or on Facebook/Arikok National Park.

In the pictures:
Concierge staff members Naomi, Jennifer and Lucienne of Red Sail Sports Aruba enjoying breakfast at Arikok Park's Hofi Shon Shoco; paying a visit to the Quadirikiri Cave inside the national park.



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Kittens looking for a Volunteer, to get them home before Christmas



We are hoping to find a volunteer to take a mother, Pumpkin and her kittens to their new forever homes, in the USA.

The Aruba Kitten Rescue Foundation is always on the lookout for visitors wishing to adopt a kittens/cats/dogs and puppies from Aruba and the foundation's mission is to guide those volunteers through the process and make it as easy as possible -- it's not difficult.

So...attention people from New Jersey, if you wish to volunteer this week or next to take any of these lovely cats home to their new family, contact Yessy @ 732-1433. Read more about us and other rescues on www.facebook.com/aruba.mutts and on behalf of the Aruba Kitten Rescue Foundation, donations are welcome.

Thanks in advance.
Best regards,

The use of water and special lights will stimulate life in Downtown Plazas



ORANJESTAD -- In a matter of days the Daniel Leo Plaza and the Nicky Habibe Plaza will be completed for all to enjoy. Together with the Chipi Chipi Plaza, which is the plaza between Penha and La Moderna, these three areas form the three points from which architects and engineers planning the beautifi-

cation of our Main Street, want to create areas for recreation.

Ing. Marlon Croes, head of the Management and Supervision of the Public Works Department, has explained that Plaza Daniel Leo at the beginning and Plaza Nicky Habibe at the end of the Main Street are in their final phase

of construction. The fountain is ready and lights are being lit at night.

The Plaza Nicky Habibe is a different concept from the other two plazas. The plaza design includes spouts from the floor going upward which makes it different and attractive for children to watch as it functions with its special lights.

The fountains are special points. In the case of Daniel Leo Plaza, the fountain is a combination of a podium where local artists can perform and do shows. We want to attract people to the plazas, to make use of them. The colorful lights at night will give them a new dimension.

In the beautification of the

Main Street a professional local and international team including INARCH N.V., Raffy Kock and the DOW worked together. Students from the prestigious PennDesign of University Pennsylvania also gave their valuable input. They worked on the streetscape aspect, which is something new for Aruba.

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'Happy tears' as S.Africans celebrate Mandela's life



People enjoy the Nelson Mandela tribute concert, called, "A life celebrated", at Cape Town Stadium yesterday. International and local stars from Johnny Clegg to Annie Lennox took to the stage in the free concert in Cape Town to pay tribute to Mandela's remarkable life and journey. "This is what he would have liked because he liked music very much," said Nodumo Dayimani, 33. "He knows how we celebrate in South Africa -- we like to sing, we like to dance. I'm sure he would have loved it. Dayimani said she was there to pay her last respects to "a great man." The last few days were very formal and very difficult for all of us. Now that we have accepted everything...it's time for us to celebrate his life."

Fog causes 200 flight cancellations in Britain

LONDON (AFP) - Thick fog in Britain on Thursday forced the cancellation of nearly 200 flights at London's Heathrow airport, one of the world's busiest.

Most of the flights grounded were heading to destinations in Britain or Europe.

A Heathrow spokeswoman told AFP: "We're looking at 190 cancellations at the moment. They're mostly short-haul -- a mixture of flights to mainland Europe and domestic flights."

The conditions also caused flights arriving at Heathrow to be delayed by an average of one hour, while departing flights were subject to similar delays.

"We expect the fog to last into the evening," the spokeswoman said.



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White House dismisses critics over Obama-Castro handshake

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House on Wednesday dismissed Republican criticism of President Barack Obama's handshake with Cuban leader Raul Castro at Nelson Mandela's memorial service.

Obama has faced a backlash from Republican rivals after exchanging pleasantries with Castro, the leader of a Communist-run country that has been bitterly estranged from the United States since 1961.

The White House has insisted the gesture was not "pre-planned" while a Cuban government-run website noted hopefully that the handshake could "be the beginning of the end of the US

aggressions against Cuba." White House spokesman Josh Earnest played down the significance of the exchange on Wednesday, stating it had been informal.

"It's my understanding, based on people who did talk to the President after his speech, that they didn't have a robust, substantive conversation about policies, but rather exchanged some pleasantries as the President was making his way to the podium," Earnest told reporters.

"So there was not an opportunity for the president to chronicle his many concerns about human rights abuses on the island of Cuba," he added.

Santa to get record eight million letters: UN

GENEVA (AFP) - Many of us cannot recall the last time we got a letter in the mail, but Santa will this year receive a record eight million of them, the United Nations said Wednesday.

Global postal services expect to sort through that number of wish lists by the time Christmas rolls around, according to a survey by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which coordinates the world's mail systems.

That is two million more than the haul estimated in a

similar survey in 2007. Postal services in Canada, France, Spain and Ireland "are reporting increases in the number of letters sent to Santa, Pere Noel or the Three Wise Men, from last year", UPU said in a statement, referring to the French and Spanish versions of the famous gift-deliverer.

Last year the French held the record with 1.7 million letters, followed by Canadians, who penned 1.35 million.



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Heavy rain sparks Rio state of alert

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Torrential rains unleashed floods and landslides in the state of Rio de Janeiro Wednesday, leaving one person missing and playing havoc with commutes and air travel in Brazil's most iconic seaside city.

Sirens sounded in Rio's hillside slums as authorities declared a state of emergency and made preparations to evacuate areas threatened by landslides.

Residents of 43 favelas were urged to leave their precariously built homes as a precaution.

18.8 cm (seven inches) of rain fell in the northern part of the state where Realengo is located.

The rain also caused chaos in Rio, flooding some metro stations and bringing traffic to a standstill in the thoroughfare opposite the Maracana football stadium, which will host the World Cup final next July.

The foul weather forced arriving flights to be diverted from the city's Santos Dumont airport.

Thousands of residents faced a struggle to get to work and Rio mayor Eduardo Paes advised people in the worst-hit areas to stay at home.

"The situation is critical -- we have had very heavy rain. Our priority is the alert system in the favelas (slums) and areas at risk of landslides," Paes told Globo News.

Over the weekend, torrential rain in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia left at least 16 people dead, a civil protection source told AFP. One person remains missing there.

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World drugs body calls Uruguay marijuana move 'illegal'

VIENNA (AFP) - Uruguay's move to legalise the production and sale of marijuana breaks international law, the world drugs body said Wednesday, warning it would encourage addiction.

"Uruguay is breaking the international conventions on drug control with the cannabis legislation approved by its congress," said the International Narcotics Control Board, a UN body that oversees the implementation of international treaties on drugs.

INCB president Raymond Yans added he was "surprised" that Montevideo had "know-

ingly decided to break the universally agreed and internationally endorsed legal provisions of the treaty."

He accused the country's lawmakers of ignoring scientific evidence on the health risks of marijuana, and said claims the law would help reduce crime relied on "rather precarious and unsubstantiated assumptions."

The move "will not protect young people, but rather have the perverse effect of encouraging early experimentation, lowering the age of first use, and thus contributing to... earlier onset of addiction and other disorders," said Yans.

Uruguay's parliament voted on Tuesday to legalise marijuana, becoming the first nation in the world to oversee the production and sale of the drug.

"The war against drugs has failed," said Senator Roberto Conde as he presented the bill on behalf of the ruling leftist Broad Front, calling it an "unavoidable response" to that failure.

The law not only authorises the production, distribution and sale of cannabis, but also allows individuals to grow their own on a small scale, and creates consumer clubs -- all under state supervision and control.

The UN office on drugs and crime on Wednesday said it agreed with the INCB statement and implicitly criticised Uruguay's unilateral move in the global war on drugs.

"Just as illicit drugs are

everyone's shared responsibility, there is a need for each country to work closely together and to jointly agree on the way forward for dealing with this global challenge," it said in a statement.

Mandela memorial sign language interpreter a 'fraud'



CAPE TOWN (AFP) - The sign language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial was accused Wednesday of being a fake who merely flapped his arms around during speeches. "He's a complete fraud," Cara Loening, director of Sign Language Education and Development in Cape Town told AFP. The interpreter, who translated eulogies including those of US President Barack Obama and Mandela's grandchildren, looked as if he was "trying to swat a few flies away from his face and his head". "The deaf community in South Africa are completely outraged and nobody knows who he is," said Loening. The government said it had launched an investigation following the allegations, the results of which would be made public.

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G8 sets 2025 dementia breakthrough target

LONDON (AFP) - Finding a cure or treatment for dementia by 2025 is within reach, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Wednesday at the first-ever G8 meeting on combating the disease.

Health ministers from the Group of Eight industrialised countries met in London to tackle what experts warn is a dementia time-bomb, with cases set to soar as the global population ages.

They agreed a funding surge for research in a bid to hit the 2025 target, amid warnings that the escalating problem could bankrupt healthcare budgets if a cure is not found.

The G8, chaired this year by Britain, hopes that by forming a common front, the summit

will prove the turning point in tackling the disease.

The currently incurable condition afflicts some 44 million people worldwide -- most of them elderly.

Sufferers of dementia, of which Alzheimer's disease is the most common form, often end up needing full-time care as it attacks their memory, reasoning and other brain functions.

Alzheimer's Disease International warned in a report last week that the number of sufferers is set to surge, trebling to 135 million by 2050, as life expectancy rises around the globe.

"In generations past, the world came together to take on the great killers. We stood against malaria, cancer, HIV and AIDS, and we should be

just as resolute today," Cameron said. "I want December 11, 2013 to go down as the day the global fight-back really started.

The G8 nations -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- agreed to significant increases in funding for research and related infrastructure.

Meanwhile the European Union's health commissioner Tonio Borg announced a 1.2 billion euro (\$1.65 billion) budget for health research in 2014-2015, including dementia and neurodegenerative diseases.

The G8 agreed to coordinate rather than duplicate their research, sharing out the workload and filling in the gaps.

Resistant flu virus keeps contagiousness

PARIS (AFP) - A mutant form of the H7N9 flu virus that is resistant to frontline drugs is just as contagious as its non-resistant counterpart, according to a lab test reported.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, raises a red flag for the virus, which has claimed dozens of lives since its outbreak in February.

H7N9 is believed to have spread to humans from poultry, where it circulates naturally. The UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) says on its website that "so far", no evidence has emerged of "sustained" transmission of H7N9 among people.

Scientists led by Nicole Bouvier at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York analysed an early sample

of H7N9 taken from a patient in Shanghai.

Replicating the virus in high-security conditions, they found it had a mutation that made it resistant to the two frontline antiviral drugs -- Tamiflu (lab name oseltamivir) and Peramivir -- and partially resistant to a third drug, Relenza (zanamivir).

The mutant variety of H7N9 replicated as easily and as virulently as the non-mutant strain in human respiratory cells in a lab dish, in mice lungs and in guinea pigs.

The discovery is unusual as "seasonal" influenza -- common-or-garden flu strains that erupt every winter -- typically loses some of its contagiousness when a strain becomes drug-resistant.

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NEW YORK - The drug fibanserin, a female libido pill produced by Sprout Pharmaceuticals, was knocked down by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). According to sources, the FDA questions whether the drug's benefits out-weigh its risks. For instance, it's noted that fatigue, dizziness and nausea are included in the list of side effects, among other things, with a little to modest libido increase according to studies. Though such drugs as Viagra, for instance, work to increase blood flow to the genitals in men who with erectile dysfunction, many women's sexual issues are psychological and not physical. As a result, there are a number of alternate causes doctors must consider before diagnosing female sexual desire disorder included in relationship problems, hormone disorders and depression.



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'12 Years a Slave' tops Hollywood's SAG nominees

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Historical drama "12 Years a Slave" topped nominations for the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards announced Wednesday, as Hollywood's annual prize-giving season gets into gear.

The movie directed by Steve McQueen scored four nominations, followed by three each for "August: Osage County," "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

On the TV front, cult series "Breaking Bad" leads the race.

"12 Years a Slave" tells the story of Solomon Northup, a black man in 19th century New York state who is abducted and sold into slavery to work in the cotton fields.

Its nominations include for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture -- the SAG equivalent of best picture Oscar -- as well as nods for best actor for Chiwetel Ejiofor, best supporting actress for Lupita Nyong'o and best supporting actor for Michael Fassbender.

"To be recognized for a project that I feel so passionately about means a huge amount to



me. For this recognition to be from my peers makes it even more poignant," said Ejiofor, cited by industry journal Variety.

The other best film nominees are "American Hustle," "August: Osage County," "Dallas Buyers Club," and "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

Best actress nominees are Cate Blanchett for "Blue Jasmine," Sandra Bullock for "Gravity," Judi Dench for "Philomena," Meryl Streep for "August: Osage County," and Emma Thompson for "Saving Mr. Banks."

Bullock has been widely tipped for awards season gold

for playing an astronaut marooned in space with George Clooney after an accident. The visually stunning 3D movie involved ground-breaking camera work and special effects technology.

"Had I known being locked in a light box and dangling from a ceiling for hours on end would land me in the company of these extraordinary women, I would have done it years ago," Bullock told Variety.

In the best actor race, Ejiofor is up against Bruce Dern for "Nebraska," Tom Hanks for "Captain Phillips," Matthew McConaughey for "Dallas Buyers Club" and For-

est Whitaker for "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

McConaughey, who plays a rodeo hustler infected with the HIV virus in a true story about early efforts to treat AIDS in the 1980s, said it was "so solid and gratifying to have this recognition from my fellow actors."

On the small screen, "Breaking Bad" has the most nominations with four, for best TV drama as well as best actor for Bryan Cranston for chemistry teacher turned drug lord Walter White, best actress for Anna Gunn and best stunt work.

Matt Damon and Michael Douglas are competing against each other for best actor in a mini-series of TV film, for "Behind the Candelabra," the biopic of flamboyant entertainer Liberace which scored big at this year's Emmy awards.

Hollywood's awards season gets into full swing Thursday with the announcement of nominees for the Golden Globes, while nominations for the Oscars will be revealed on January 16.

Norwegian comedy video 'The Fox' tops YouTube 2013 chart

OSLO (AFP) - A zany Norwegian music video originally intended as a joke was the most popular video of the year on YouTube, the website revealed Wednesday.

Since its release on September 3 the clip -- featuring people in animal costumes dancing in a forest to the refrain "What does the fox say?" -- had more than 276 million views on YouTube, the site said.

It even led to a children's book deal for the Norwegian comedy duo Baard and Vegard Ylvis, who first released the music video to promote a TV comedy show.

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Spotify goes mobile with free music streaming

NEW YORK (AFP) - Spotify extended its free music streaming service to smartphones and tablets on Wednesday, ramping up a challenge to rivals such as Pandora.

Spotify released applications that allow users to listen to songs from the Sweden-based company's library using Apple or Android mobile devices.

Previously the service was

available only from laptop or desktop computers, unless users paid for a subscription.

"Today we're giving people the best free music experience in the history of the smartphone and the tablet," said Spotify chief executive Daniel Ek.

Spotify also expanded its reach to 20 new markets, bringing to 55 the number of countries in which the service is available.

The company boasts 24 million active users, with more than six million of those paying for a premium ad-free service costing \$10 a month.

Free versions of Spotify are supported by ads in a model similar to that of California-based Pandora.

"Spotify's move to offer a mobile listening experience to users who do not subscribe signifies the company's hope to use the free mobile experience to get another six million people to first try it out for free and then eventually splurge for the on-demand subscription," said Forrester analyst James McQuivey.

The free service lets people listen to songs generated in play lists and does not allow selection of specific tunes on demand.

"Spotify's move this week is not only good product marketing in the present, it's necessary positioning for that future, in which Spotify itself will likely have to become a feature in somebody else's product, or disappear."

Created in 2006 by two Swedes, Spotify, while labeled the world's most popular streaming music service, has yet to make a profit, unlike its US rival Pandora.

In 2012, the company said it lost 58.7 million euros, on sales of 434.7 million euros (\$594 million).

Snowden hopes leaks will improve transparency: *Time*

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former US national security contractor Edward Snowden hopes his leaks of classified documents will lead to greater transparency by governments, he said in rare comments published Wednesday. "What we recoil most strongly against is not that such surveillance can theoretically occur, but that it was done without a majority of society even being aware it was possible," he told *Time*



in an email interview. Snowden, who is living in Russia under temporary asylum, has given few interviews since leaking a trove of secret documents from the National Security Agency. He said he took the risk of publicizing the data because of the dangers he saw of a surveillance state. He told the magazine that he hopes his disclosures will help bring about changes by forcing a rethinking by the public, the technology community, the US courts, Congress and the executive branch.

iPad baby seat angers parents



NEW YORK - Fisher-Price has sparked outrage with the release of a new baby seat featuring an iPad holder. The seat is described on the Fisher-Price website as being soothing and entertaining, and the iPad feature "another way to stimulate and engage" your child. But several advocacy groups are demanding the product be recalled, as it encourages parents to leave their babies alone with a screen close to their face. Around 4,500 people have so far signed a petition calling for the seats to be recalled.

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Mexico's Senate backs reform to break oil monopoly

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico's Senate on Wednesday approved controversial legislation to open the state-controlled energy sector to foreign investment and break the 75-year-old oil monopoly.

The bill is the centerpiece of President Enrique Pena Nieto's reform drive, which has also seen new tax collection, telecommunications and education laws in an effort to revitalize Latin America's second biggest economy.

The legislation would let private firms explore and extract oil and gas as well as share profits, production and risk with the state-run energy giant Pemex, ending a ban cemented in the constitution.

The Senate voted 95-28 for the general outlines of the bill in a midnight vote.

The proposed constitutional changes stem from a deal between Pena Nieto's centrist Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the conservative opposition National Action Party.

The two parties say the reform is badly needed to modernize Pemex and reverse falling oil production.

But the left-wing Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) has branded the plan treason and a submission to US oil companies, calling the legislation a bid to privatize a symbol of national sovereignty.

Protesters have camped out outside the Senate, hitting metal police barriers with shoes, sticks and rocks.

The PRI insists the oil would remain in the nation's hands.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



It says the reform is needed to reverse a downward trend in oil production, which has dropped from 3.4 million barrels per day in 2004 to 2.5 million bpd today.

The bill proposes contract and licensing schemes that fall short of more controversial concessions.

The legislation also would remove Pemex's powerful union, which has been tainted by corruption allegations, from the company board.

Changes to the oil sector strike at the heart of modern Mexico's national identity.

In 1938, then president Lazaro Cardenas nationalized the foreign-operated oil industry, a wildly popular move that asserted Mexico's right to its own mineral wealth.

The government also founded Pemex, which despite its many problems remains one of the country's most important sources of income from exports.

Rabobank International to lose independent status

THE HAGUE - Rabobank's international arm is to lose its separate status and be integrated back into Rabobank Nederland, the Financieele Dagblad reports.

The international division, based in London and Singapore, was at the centre of efforts to manipulate Libor interest rates by Rabobank staff.

The change in status has been recommended by the management board and put to the bank's workers' council for its opinion. The paper has obtained a copy of the recommendations in a report named 'Together we are one Rabobank'.

Under the plans, Rabobank International will lose its own staff departments, including personnel and IT.

Dutch water firm cuts Israel ties after tense PM visit

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch water supplier Vitens has ended a partnership with Israeli water company Mekorot due to the "political context", the Dutch company said on Wednesday.

The abrupt decision comes days after a visit to the Mekorot offices in Israel by the Netherlands' trade minister Lilianne Ploumen was abruptly cancelled.

In a statement, Vitens said it had come to the conclusion that it was "extremely hard" to work with Mekorot on future projects "because they cannot be taken out of the political context."

The company visit was part of a larger tour of Israel by Prime Minister Mark Rutte that was marred by a dispute over a Dutch-made security scanner on the Gaza border.

Rutte was to have inaugu-

rated the scanner on the frontier with the Palestinian Islamist-ruled strip, but the ceremony was broken off.

The focus of the dispute is trade between Gaza and the West Bank, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority under president Mahmud Abbas.

Israel's defence ministry wants to isolate the two Palestinian regions, while Dutch officials had hoped the scanner might boost commerce between them.

Mekorot, which provides water to Israeli towns and to Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, has been accused by Dutch media of denying water access to Palestinians.

According to the World Bank, a third of Palestinian territories are cut off from the Israeli water system and Israelis

draw out a far bigger share of the water supply than agreed in the 1995 Oslo 2 accord.

Israeli deputy Foreign minister Zeev Elkin said he was "blindsided" by the pullout "and a few more European companies have made similar decisions in the past months, which have blindsided us exactly in parallel with the peace process."

In talks last week, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians signed a historic water-sharing initiative at the World Bank that could protect water resources in the region amid rising demand.

The deal will see Israel, working through Mekorot, boosting its annual sales of water to the Palestinian Authority by 20-30 million cubic meters a year, up from the current level of 52 million cubic meters.

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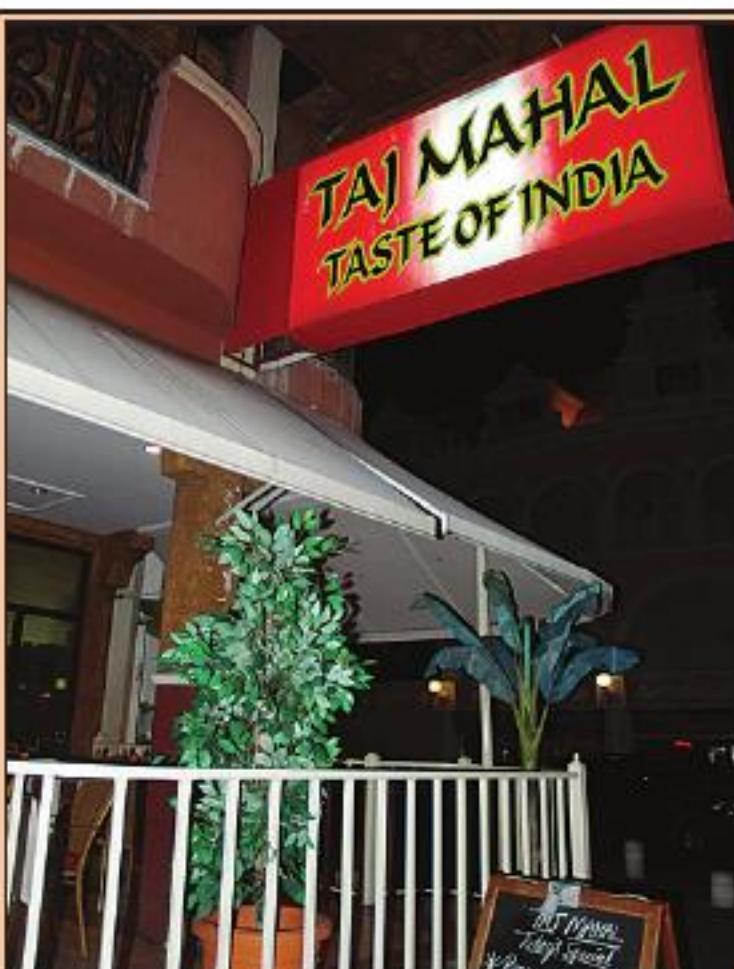
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Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well.

Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal. Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary, they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

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rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll



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A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week, there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

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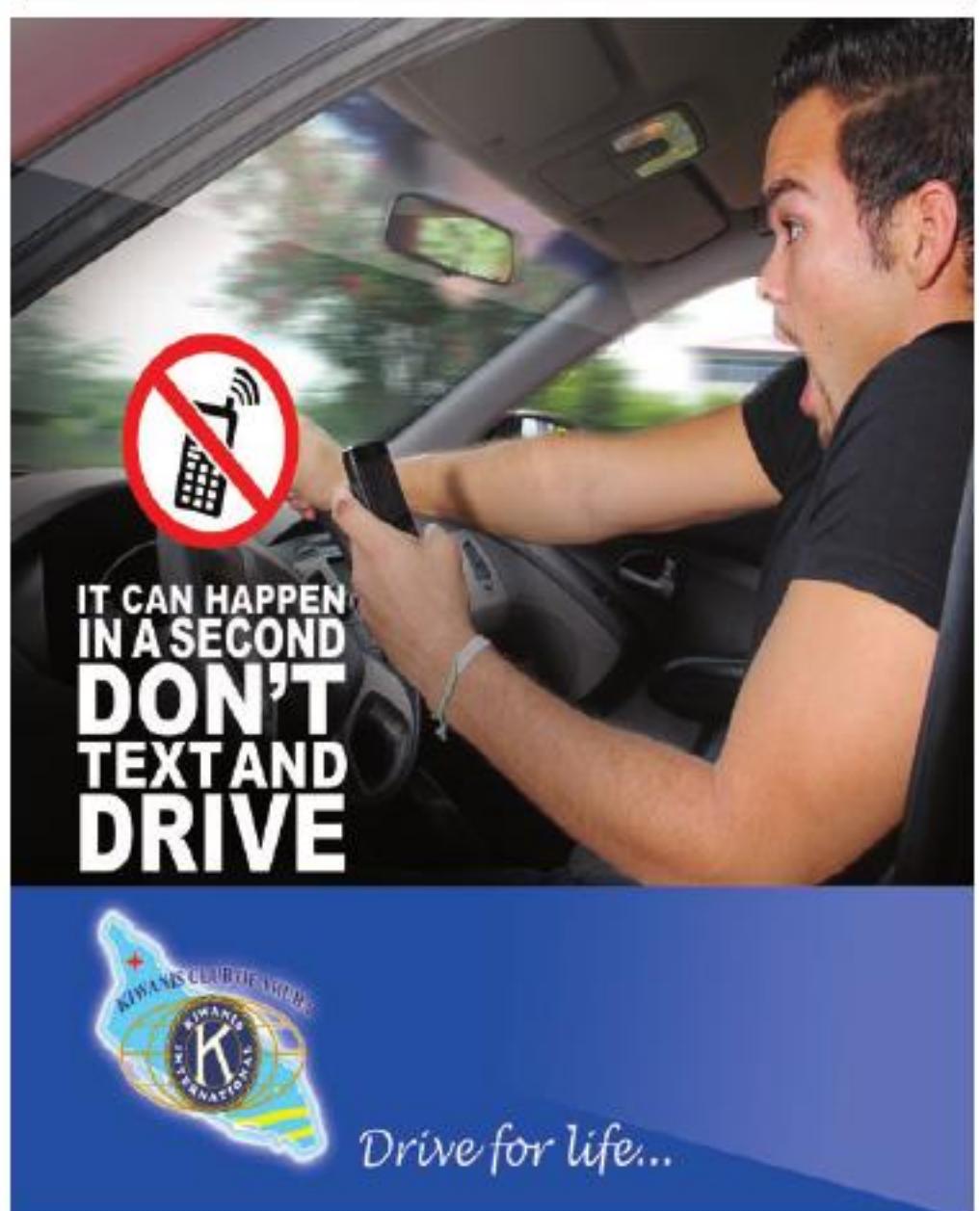
tains a fully equipped kitchenette. Our excellent maid-service will clean your room daily, and you will find fresh towels in your room daily.

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NFL: McCown shines as Bears crush Cowboys

CHICAGO (AFP) - Josh McCown threw for 349 yards and Matt Forte gained 175 yards and a touchdown to lead the Chicago Bears to a 45-28 win over Dallas.

McCown, who was making his fourth consecutive start in place of Jay Cutler, threw four touchdown passes and ran for another in frigid conditions at Soldier Field in Chicago.

McCown was 27-for-36 for 348 yards, while Forte carried the ball 20 times for 102 yards, and added seven catches for 73 yards and a score.

The Bears improved to 7-6 and snapped a two-game National Football League losing skid.

The Bears moved into a tie with Detroit for first place in the NFC North. But Detroit holds the tiebreaker as they



beat Chicago in a pair of games this season.

Tony Romo threw 11-for-20 for 104 yards, and had three touchdown passes for the Cowboys.

Dallas, who had won their previous two contests, dropped to 7-6 on the season.

The Cowboys fell into second place in the NFC East and one game behind the Eagles, who defeated the Lions on Sunday.

Cutler is out with a sprained ankle and the Bears also played without star linebacker Lance Briggs.

Chicago's win levels the all-time series between the clubs at 11-11. The Bears have won the last three, including a 34-18 victory in October of last year.

The teams haven't met in Chicago since a September 2007 which the Cowboys won 34-10.

NBA: Bryant scores 20 in loss to Suns



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Kobe Bryant's comeback from an Achilles injury gained momentum on Tuesday as he scored 20 points, but it wasn't enough to end the Los Angeles Lakers losing skid at home. Goran Dragic had 31 points and five assists as the Phoenix Suns defeated the Lakers 114-108 at Staples Center arena. Bryant, who scored a team high 20 points, was playing in just his second game since returning from an eight month layoff following Achilles surgery. Bryant finished six-of-11 from the field for the Lakers, who have lost three straight home games. Bryant had nine points and eight turnovers in his season debut Sunday. The Lakers now open a four-game road trip Friday against Oklahoma City, Charlotte, Atlanta and Memphis.

Football: Ribery's 'fingers crossed' for Ballon d'Or



MUNICH (AFP) - Bayern Munich's France midfielder Franck Ribery has said he is "keeping his fingers crossed" having been named amongst the three finalists for the Ballon d'Or.

"It's good for me to be named in the three, but we'll have to see, I'll keep my fingers crossed," he said after Bayern's 3-2 defeat to Manchester City with Argentina's Lionel Messi and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo also named.

"I'm happy, happy for me, for the club, for my whole family.

"But I am a little bit sad for (Zlatan Ibrahimovic) because he's still a great player and he has done great things with Paris Saint-Germain."

Ribery, Ronaldo and Messi must wait until January 13 when the winner of the 2013 Ballon d'Or will be named in Zurich.

The Frenchman is hoping to win it for the first time, while Messi has won the Ballon d'Or

four times and Ronaldo was the 2008 winner.

Ribery admitted he was surprised by the Champions League defeat to City, who came back from two-goals down to inflict Bayern's first defeat at home in 19 games since losing to Arsenal in March.

It was coach Pep Guardiola's first defeat in major competition.

Ribery, who was on Tuesday voted France's player of the year, was a key part in Bayern becoming the first German team to win the treble of European, league and cup titles last season.

In August, he was voted European player of the year, ahead of Messi.

France have been drawn alongside Switzerland, Ecuador and Honduras in Group E for next year's World Cup in Brazil, Ribery said the French must build on their impressive 3-0 win against Ukraine in the play-off.

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Football: Ajax fans stabbed before Milan clash

MILAN (AFP) - Three fans of Ajax are in hospital, one in a serious condition, after being stabbed prior to the Dutch side's Champions League clash with AC Milan on Wednesday, according to reports.

Domestic news agency ANSA said the fans had been stabbed in separate incidents close to the San Siro stadium and were being treated in the city's San Carlo Hospital.

All three Ajax fans were aged 18 to 32, added the report.

Fans of the Dutch side were involved in scuffles earlier in the day in Milan, notably when Ajax fans fought with a group of demonstrators who had congregated near Piazza Loreto.

Around 300 fans of the Dutch side were also seen in the centre of Milan near the city's famous Duomo cathedral, where they split into two groups. It was reported that several shop windows were damaged.

Hundreds of police, most with riot gear, were deployed around the stadium and were shepherding Ajax fans into special buses as soon as they exited the metro at Piazza Lotto, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

Less than an hour before kick-off, security personnel around the stadium had to be called into action to contain rowdy fans of the Dutch club as they tried to enter the stadium.

AC Milan require only a draw against Ajax to advance to the last 16 of the Champions League while Ajax need a win if they are to jump up to second place in Group H and join already qualified Barcelona in the knockout phase.

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Workshop on the fight against doping in sports

ORANJESTAD - The anti-doping committee of the Aruba Olympic Committee is presenting a special two day workshop intended to focus on the fight against doping in sports for all athletes, parents, coaches, trainers and volunteers.

Thanks to the support of UNESCO and the cooperation of the Regional Anti Doping Organization (RDO) this weekend the two days Workshops will be held. On the 14th of December, the workshop will be especially for athletes

and their parents, while on the 15th coaches, trainers, volunteers and members of the anti doping pool will be addressed.

The objective of the Workshops is to inform, educate athletes and parents, coaches, trainers and volunteers of their responsibilities with respect to doping.

They will also inform and explain certain themes, for example:

*The prohibited List: every year the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) publishes a list of substances and prohibi-

ted methods in sports. This prohibited List is ample and is amended every year by WADA

-The concept of the Where Abouts of selected athletes. They must always let known where they are during the entire year. They must report their training schedule for the entire year in the event they have to prove that they are not involved in doping.

-The proper use of medicine (Therapeutic Use Exemptions): athletes under the treatment of a doctor must report

this to the authorities.

-The process of doping control: how the process takes place, from the moment of notification, collection of the sample and the filling of forms.

Mrs. Tessa Chaderton-Shaw is coming from Barbados especially for these workshops. She is the president of the RADO. Together with Dr. Chris Mejia who is a representative of Aruba in RADO Chaderton-Shaw will be facilitating the workshops.

The workshops will be held

in the Holiday Inn Hotel – Las Palmas Ballroom.

December 14th from 9:00 to 3:30pm

December 15th from 9:30 - 3:30pm

Participation is completely free due to the generosity of UNESCO.

Register as soon as possible by calling 582-0031 or 528-0854 or via email at info@olympicaruba.aw. Or, come by the office at the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota.